

## CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Juliet Walker, Portsmouth Planning Department  
603-610-7296, [jthwalker@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:jthwalker@cityofportsmouth.com)  
Craig Chester, Smart Growth America  
202-207-3355 x122, [cchester@smartgrowthamerica.org](mailto:cchester@smartgrowthamerica.org)

**June 5, 2014**

### **City of Portsmouth, NH to host workshop on how to implement its Complete Streets policy**

*Portsmouth, NH*—Portsmouth and regional transportation officials as well as members of the public will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from Smart Growth America on June 12 and 13, 2014 as part of a free, grant-funded technical assistance program. The technical assistance will provide City decision makers and transportation officials with the tools to help develop an action plan for implementing the City’s Complete Streets policy, which was adopted by City Council last fall. Complete Streets are planned, designed, operated and maintained to be safe, comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities, whether they are walking, bicycling, driving, or riding on public transportation.

“The City recognizes the importance of providing infrastructure support for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as for motorists,” said Portsmouth City Manager John Bohenko. “Expanding transportation options can increase quality of life by improving the safety, health and welfare of our residents, reducing traffic congestion, and increasing economic vitality.”

The technical assistance provided by Smart Growth America will include both a public presentation and a training workshop for transportation and land use staff and representatives. Members of the public are invited to an introductory presentation and discussion at the Little Theatre at Portsmouth High School (50 Andrew Jarvis Drive) on Thursday, June 12, 2014 starting at 7:00 PM. The presentation will provide a brief overview of Complete Streets and the next steps for implementing the City’s policy. There will also be an opportunity for questions and discussion after the presentation.

“Smart Growth America is committed to providing training to help local community leaders keep cities and towns livable, sustainable and vital places,” said Roger Millar, Smart Growth America

Vice President. “Portsmouth has already done significant work by adopting a comprehensive Complete Streets policy in order to achieve its vision for a livable and walkable city. This technical assistance will provide the community with strategies to effectively implement the Complete Streets policy to make its vision for the City a reality.”

In January 2014, Portsmouth was one of 18 communities selected by Smart Growth America to participate in the free technical assistance program. Stretching from New Hampshire to Idaho, these communities represent major cities, suburban centers, and rural towns alike.

The program, made possible through a five-year Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Sustainable Communities, seeks to develop local planning solutions that help communities grow in ways that benefit families and businesses, while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Two other nonprofit organizations—Global Green USA and Project for Public Spaces—also have competitively awarded grants under this program to help communities get the kinds of development they want.

As a national leader in the field, Smart Growth America has accumulated extensive experience working with communities to help them use land strategically, make the most of existing resources and invest strategically to catalyze private development.

**Smart Growth America** is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For additional information visit [www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org).